

After flying for nearly 40 years it never ceases to amaze me how some of the proposed rules and regulations can so adversely effect the cost and complexity of flying without really accomplishing anything worthwhile. With this proposal it appears that the pressure of the general public and uninformed politicians to do something to improve public safety and combat terrorism has blocked out any common sense reasoning.

Every pilot and the FAA knows that there already exists a means of identifying if a hijacking is taking place by squaking a discrete transponder code. And it seems logical that a separate means of signaling ATC without hijacker knowledge would be beneficial on scheduled airline flights, but the chance and risk of a typical GA aircraft operating under Part 91 being hijacked is so extremely low as to be almost nonexistent. The cost of equipping all GA aircraft with special transponders or devices would be huge and the burden to GA would be unacceptable with almost no positive benefit. GA pilots KNOW who their passengers are and I think it is highly unlikely that they are going to carry anyone who would hijack their aircraft. Common sense should prevail and the money and effort to combat terrorism should be spent elsewhere and in a manner that will actually be beneficial.